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# Letter to the Workers Party of America from the Communist International. [January 1923]

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The Communist International has decided to admit your party into its ranks only as a sympathizing party. That however does not in any way diminish the importance of the tasks confronting you.

The Communist International considers that the most important task of the American workers' movement is to unite the broadest possible masses of the workers under one common flag for a united mass fight against the capitalist offensive. Therefore your party must regard it as a primary task to close the proletarian ranks and to rally all those elements who really oppose capital not only on paper, but in action, not only with resolutions but with real struggles, and who are prepared to intensify that struggle. To win the masses, to liberate them from the influence of capital and its hirelings, this is your primary task. This task, however, can be accomplished only if the party adapts itself to real life, intervenes in every conflict between capital and labor, supports the workers in every strike, carefully follows the daily life of the working masses, makes its press the mouthpiece of the daily needs and the daily struggle of the working class, generalizes these struggles and explains them from the standpoint of the principal basic ideas of the emancipation of the proletariat from the capitalist yoke.

The correct application of united front tactics is particularly important. The curse and the tragedy of the proletariat consists in this, that in the yellow reformist leaders of the trade unions and the socialist parties the bourgeoisie have at their disposal faithful servants and agents, who rely on the labor aristocracy. The curse and the tragedy of the workers' movement consists in this, that the bourgeoisie have been able to exploit the gulf between skilled and unskilled workers, between the workers of different nations and races. Your young party must learn at all costs to unite the masses, over the heads of the yellow leaders and in spite of the yellow leaders. These leaders now want to split the movement. That was predicted by Jack London in his novel *The Iron Heel*. That is why your party must systematically expose these traitors to the workers' cause, by proposing a common fight with them for the basic demands of the working class, and uniting behind this slogan ever wider circles of workers. The question of work in the trade unions is particularly important. It is necessary to win one position after another in the unions, constantly emphasizing our slogan of the unity of the movement. It will be a difficult, long, and stubborn struggle. But history will decide it in your favor, comrades, if you conduct an energetic struggle with the necessary enthusiasm and unity in your own ranks.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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